Silvercreek Glider Club

Silvercreek Glider Club (SGC) offers a wide variety of soaring opportunities. These include primary and advanced instruction, local and cross-country soaring, towing service for owners of private ships, and use of club gliders. Conditions in the Illinois and Missouri area provide good thermal soaring. Thermals frequently start in late morning and last until early evening. Club members are frequently able to fly 5+ hours and cover hundreds of miles in good conditions.

SGC's operating season typically starts in late March and extends through November, although flying is possible year round (weather permitting). Soaring provides a great way to spend a day or a weekend outdoors.

Gift Certificates/Familiarization Flights:

You can become a one day member of the glider club, which entitles you to one familiarization flight with an instructor or a commercially rated glider pilot.

We generally fly every Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting. Please contact Barry Marcus (314-413-0249 or barry@jbma.com) to purchase a gift certificate.

The charge for your familiarization flight will be $100.00. This will be a tow, in either the SGS 2-33 or the Grob G103 Twin Astir, behind the Piper Pawnee to 3,000 feet above local ground level and a glide back to the airport. If you are lucky, you might get a thermal and be able to extend your flight. If not, the gliding flight lasts about 20 minutes. Once you are off tow, you will have an opportunity to fly the aircraft, if you desire. Even if you are a pilot with demonstrated competency, for insurance purposes, the club pilot will take off and land the airplane.

Membership:

If you are interested in becoming a club member, here is some important information about flight instruction and membership fees.

If you would like to see the FAA requirements for pilot licensing, you can go to http://www.ssa.org/sport/gliderpilot.asp.

Visit our Gliderport and introduce yourself to the members. Ask to be shown the facilities, and if possible take a familiarization with a flight instructor.

If you are a student, with or without experience, you will be introduced to one of our flight instructors. Instructors volunteer their time and provide free instruction to members, on a time available basis. Prior coordination with instructors will ensure that they are available to meet your training needs. Student pilots have priority for club gliders and tow position each operating date before noon.

If you are a rated glider pilot, an SGC instructor must check you out in order for you to fly SGC club gliders.

If you have some flying experience, you will probably be off to a good start, should you decide to work toward a license. We have members at all levels of competency, from first year students with no flying experience, to national competition soaring pilots.

We currently have four certified glider instructors. The fee for instruction is nominal at $5.00 per flight..

After your familiarization flight, if you are interested in full membership, we require a $300 deposit. Monthly fees and flying fees will initially be deducted from this deposit. You will receive a regular statement of account. As the deposit is used up, it goes without saying, we expect each member to keep his/her account current. These fees pay for maintenance of the grounds, fuel for the tow plane, maintenance and insurance on the aircraft, etc. If we get behind, it puts the entire operation in jeopardy.

There is a lot to do when we first get to the glider port, and we expect club members to help. There are ships to get out of the hangar and on the flight line. Tow plane and gliders to preflight. If you are interested in the club, we encourage you to get to the field between 11:00 AM and noon so you can get a good feeling for how we operate, and get to know some of the members. We are pretty friendly, so don't be shy.

Once the aircraft are on the flight line, operations are open for student flights and familiarization flights. Later in the afternoon, as thermal activity builds up, members try to get airborne for soaring flights.

We are a not-for-profit organization, and our goal is to keep costs down as much as possible while still maintaining an infrastructure we can all enjoy.

This means that as a "self help" club, the work associated with club operation is performed by members. This includes towing, instructing, aircraft maintenance, facility maintenance (painting, cleaning, vacuuming, trash removal, etc.), and club administration. Our members perform all of these jobs. Members are also expected to move aircraft, help assemble gliders, crew, etc.

Plan to arrive at the field early, contribute to the pre-flight activities, FLY, and help put it all away again at the end of the day. And of course, attend often.

Membership Costs:

Initial Escrow Fees:
$300 due with application.
This is your money to be used to pay your dues and flight fees (to establish good credit with the club). It also pays SSA dues for the first year.

SGC Dues:
$45 each month of the year.
If you wish, you may pay your dues yearly at the beginning of the season.

Soaring Society of America (SSA) Dues:
Membership in the SSA is a requirement for membership in SGC. Dues are $64 per year for regular membership, $36 per year for family membership or $36 per year for youth membership (22 years of age or less). SSA dues are paid through SGC.

Other Charges:

Tow Fees:
Aero Tow to 1000 ft: $24.20
Each additional 1000 ft: $6.00
Club sailplane use: $5.50 per flight
Tow pilot fee: $5.00 per flight
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We often BBQ and socialize after flying. All are welcome to attend.
In addition to two bunkrooms in the clubhouse, the club has facilities for campers and tents on-site. Indoor restrooms and hot water showers are also available.

For more information:

Joe Shepherd, President: (618) 488-6684
Joe Buerk, Vice President, (314) 440-4166
Gary Payne, Secretary: (314) 346-9497
Barry Marcus, Treasurer: (314) 413-0249